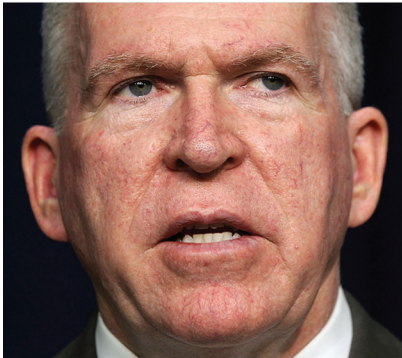


Obama names national security team

U.S. President Barack Obama has picked 25-year CIA veteran John Brennan as CIA director and Republican Chuck Hagel as defence secretary, pending approval by the Senate. For the first time since Nixon there will be no woman serving on the national security team



John Brennan, 57. CIA director

■ Obama's chief counter-terrorism adviser since 2008, Brennan was deeply involved in planning of 2011 raid that killed **Osama bin Laden**

■ Has played central role in overseeing use of targeted killing of suspected terrorists using drones in Pakistan, Yemen and Somalia

■ Withdrew from consideration for CIA's top job in 2008 amid questions about his connection to enhanced interrogation techniques used during **George W Bush** administration



Chuck Hagel, 66. Defence secretary

■ Former maverick Republican senator from Nebraska, has faced criticism from some fellow Republicans who say he is hostile to Israel and soft on Iran

■ First Vietnam veteran nominated for post. Critical of size of U.S. military, saying defence department needs "to be pared down"

■ Would oversee military drawdown in Afghanistan, more likely to support more rapid withdrawal of troops than some military generals